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Briefer: Adam Erel, Deputy Spokesman

**QUESTION:** Adam, I know there's been a lot of discussion about this -- the question of the camps, the U.S. prison camps in Eastern Europe, on the question of torture and the President coming out against torture. I have a more specific question, confirming the report in *The Washington Post* today, that the Secretary of State had a video conference with the Vice President while we were in Canada to actually, sort of, admonish him not to take any action without her having input. Can you comment on that, please?

**MR. ERELI:** I can tell you, number one, that I'm not going to talk about internal Administration policy discussions. That's something that I'm not here to do and I'm not going to get into it on this subject either.

As for the other sort of characterizations and representations that were in that article, I have basically two things to say. One is that those quoted in the article do not speak for the Secretary of State and more importantly they do not reflect her views. I think that, frankly, is the way to look at the article, to understand the quote you see in that article, as not reflecting the views of the Secretary -- not speaking for the Secretary and not reflecting her views.

**QUESTION:** Could I just follow up on that?

**MR. ERELI:** Please.

**QUESTION:** Just talking then in a broader sense, can we say that the Secretary of State and the State Department in general, is very sensitive to public opinion abroad and is in favor of trying to look at judicious restrictions on the use of interrogation techniques that might be considered questionable?

**MR. ERELI:** Our policy is clear. It's the Administration's policy. The President most recently articulated that policy today in Panama where he said, "We are going to protect Americans from attack by those who are bent on attacking us." And that we were going to do that consistent with our values and principles and that is the policy of the U.S. Government. That is what informs our discussions. But what the -- specifically those discussions entail on any given day, I'm not going to talk about it.

Yep.

**QUESTION:** Seeing as you're representing the -- or articulating the view of the Secretary, what in her view -- what is her position on CIA prisons for detainees? Does she think that this is something that is needed to protect Americans?

**MR. ERELI:** That's, again, that's a subject that we've been around and around about for about five days now.

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**QUESTION:** Well, you haven't answered the question so (inaudible.)

**MR. ERELI:** I'm not going to entertain the question. I am not going to entertain the question on the reports about secret CIA detention centers. I'm just not going to entertain it. I'm not going to speak to it.

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